

**AN HISTORICAL ENQUIRY INTO
THE PROBABLE CAUSES OF THE
RATIONALIST CHARACTER
LATELY PREDOMINANT IN THE
THEOLOGY OF GERMANY**

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An Historical enquiry into the probable causes of the rationalist character lately predominant in the theology of Germany by E. B. Pusey

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E. B. PUSEY

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INTO THE
PROBABLE CAUSES
OF THE
RATIONALIST CHARACTER
LATELY PREDOMINANT
IN THE
Theology of Germany.

TO WHICH IS PREFIXED,
A LETTER FROM PROFESSOR SACK,
UPON THE
REV. H. J. ROSE'S DISCOURSES ON GERMAN PROTESTANTISM:
TRANSLATED FROM THE GERMAN.

BY E. B. PUSEY, M.A.
FELLOW OF ORIEL COLLEGE, OXFORD.

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TO THE
RIGHT REV. FATHER IN GOD

CHARLES,
LORD BISHOP OF OXFORD,

IN ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF ADVANTAGES DERIVED
FROM HIS PUBLIC AND PRIVATE ASSISTANCE
IN THE COURSE OF THEOLOGICAL STUDY,
AND FROM THE CONTINUED KINDNESS OF PRIVATE INTERCOURSE,

The following Sheets

ARE INSCRIBED
WITH THE SINCEREST GRATITUDE AND RESPECT.

PREFACE.

THE relation which the following sheets bear to a work, which has in this country met with considerable approbation, seems to require that a brief explanation be given of the circumstances in which they originated. Mr. Rose's Essay has unquestionably, through the number of facts which it stated, had the merit of introducing the subject of German Theology more extensively before the English, and of furnishing a considerable number of data, from which the character of the late Rationalist Theology might in itself be appreciated. In the mode, however, in which these facts were presented, the Author missed that arrangement of the facts themselves, through which alone it becomes possible to trace the connexion of causes and effects through the whole course of the system described; as well as a due appreciation of the intrinsic and relative importance of those facts. To some of the innovations a degree of weight seemed to be attached, which their rela-

tion to the whole compass of the Christian system did not appear to justify : other attempts, which were in themselves justly stigmatized, had either expired as soon as they came into being, or even if they did enjoy a short-lived existence, were, from their nature and the character of their authors, as little entitled to notice, as the ephemeral and contemptible productions of a Carlile or a Hone. It was indeed almost unavoidable, that, without enquiry in the country itself, mistakes must frequently be committed as to the real influence of any instrument, whether a literary production or an institution. The Christian Evidence Society in this country has appeared at first sight to foreigners, who knew only its object, but neither the manner in which it was conducted, nor the little talent by which it was supported, an engine of some magnitude. Of infinitely more importance, however, appeared to be the omission of the history of German Theology previous to the commencement of the crisis described ; since, in that previous history, the deepest causes of this crisis must necessarily lie, and without a full knowledge of this, it seemed hopeless to anticipate any satisfactory results. The causes accordingly incidentally assigned in Mr. Rose's work (for his professed object was to give an account of the actual state of Theology, not of